

It is important we discuss these issues as Republicans, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they just won't. We owe it to the American people to do better than this; to ensure there is still a country left when our children grow up.

The way the Democrats and the Biden administration are spending money, and our open borders, should not just concern Republicans, but every American. That is why I am proud of the way my colleagues and I will bring these issues straight to the American people in the people's House.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for their participation tonight. I know that we don't have anyone else here, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

DEMOCRATS' RECKLESS SPENDING AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, when you pull into a gas station or visit a grocery store this week, you will notice something different. Consumer prices are up across the board. Make no mistake, this financial strain is a direct result of the Biden administration's out-of-control spending. It is hurting millions of Americans across the Nation. In fact, nearly 9 in 10 Americans have reported a serious concern about the rise in prices. The reality is inflation, perhaps more accurately called Biden-flation, which is climbing at the highest rate in 13 years. Gas prices are up 45 percent; used car prices up 45 percent; and the cost of breakfast, lunch, and dinner has gone up for every single family.

These staples are necessities for every family in this country and their prices are rising because of the Democrats' reckless spending agenda. There is no doubt that the Democrats' non-stop Big Government spending is placing tremendous financial stress on the American family. What is worse, Democrats have failed to acknowledge that their outrageous spending has the most devastating impact on low-income Americans, many of whom have to spend beyond their means to afford the basic cost of goods and services.

Let me make this very clear. Inflation is a regressive tax that disproportionately affects the poor. Democrats are completely out of touch with the American people. To them, inflation is transitory; nothing to worry about. To the North Carolinians that I represent and speak with every day, inflation is now a real and present problem.

What is the Democrats' solution to soaring prices and high prices? Borrowing more money, another \$3.5 tril-

lion of taxpayer money to put toward new spending and tax hikes.

There is a life lesson here. If you are in a hole, stop digging.

Republicans understand that in most households, every dollar counts. But in Biden's economy, all Americans are having to pay more now to get less. We must reverse these disastrous policy decisions to save jobs, protect long-term investments, sustain economic progress, and most importantly, keep more money in taxpayers' pockets.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SUPPORTING CUBAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in absolute and unequivocal support of the Cuban people protesting their evil and oppressive Communist regime. Unfortunately, there is nothing new about their brutality and willful violations of universally recognized human rights. The United States should make it very clear that we stand on the side of the Cuban people as thousands have joined one of the biggest anti-Communist demonstrations the country has witnessed during its 62-year dictatorship.

Since the protests began, hundreds have been detained or are missing, including: artists, peace activists, and priests. The Cuban people deserve and need our help. In the words of the late Senator Jesse Helms:

The United States must speak out clearly on behalf of those whose own voices are choked by Communist repression.

Despite what many of our own people have been brainwashed by our education systems to believe, America is the greatest force for freedom and liberty that the world has ever known. I implore this administration, the Biden administration, and this Congress to utilize every tool of the U.S. Government to support the Cuban people in their effort to defeat the Communist regime and break the shackles of its oppressive government.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to address the Chamber on what I believe is the biggest crisis facing America today. I spent last week down at the McAllen section of the U.S.-Mexico border, and what I saw horrified me.

Late at night, from 10 to 11 o'clock, I watched people from all around the world walking on a pathway from the Rio Grande River to the Border Patrol station. We are right now at a point where I believe over 70,000 people a month are being allowed in the country. Many of these people have no ID at all, so there is no way to confirm who

they are, to even see if they have a criminal record.

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Upon being processed through the border station, even without an ID, we buy them plane tickets for all around the country.

Scandalously, at a time when we are talking about COVID again, even if they test positive, people are held in apartments or hotels and not guarded, so they turn around and are being released. At a time in which we are supposed to be more careful than ever, we have a situation in which people who are coming here illegally are allowed in the country.

Furthermore, we watch as we have hit new records for the number of people who are killed in this country by illegal drug overdoses, including fentanyl. We are up to 90,000 people in the last year. I believe the reason we are hitting all-time records is because, as bad as heroin is, fentanyl is far worse. And all or virtually all of that fentanyl is coming across the southern border.

Meanwhile, we cede control of our immigration policy to Mexican drug gangs. These gangs charge, depending upon where you are coming from, \$3,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 to come across the border. They are so heartless that it is not uncommon that if Border Patrol approaches them on a boat from the Mexican side to the American side, whether it is with people or with drugs, they will throw a 3- or 4-year-old child into the Rio Grande River, knowing that our Border Patrol will fight to save that child rather than go after the people sneaking in the country or going after the drugs. This is the brutal type of people we are assisting by continuing the current policy or lack of a policy.

I strongly urge the Biden administration to step up to the plate to make sure that COVID-positive people are no longer let into the country; bring back the old policy, the migrant protection protocol, when we had only 6,000 people a month rather than 70,000 people a month crossing the border; require some sort of photo ID, like every other American would have before they get on an airline.

Good grief, who knows what type of criminal records these people have. Of course, we can only check criminal records in the United States. Nobody has any idea if these people have horrific criminal records in Honduras, El Salvador, Brazil, or all the other countries that people are coming here from.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage the Biden administration to step up.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the freedom fighters in Cuba and against communism, the very system of social, political, and economic oppression that